



HB60 – Environment – New Motor Vehicles - Pollution

Testimony before

House Environment and Transportation Committee

January 24, 2022

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barb Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB60**, to set a tax on excessive greenhouse gas emissions for new cars. Special thanks to Del. Fraser-Hidalgo for his leadership in moving this bill.

HB60 is a straight-forward, definitive bill which addresses a critical factor of environmental pollution. It is reasonable and fair that new vehicles exceeding the pollution standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency should pay a fee for the willful and excess damage high-polluting vehicles cause. Perhaps the fee will serve as an incentive for these owners to reconsider.

HB60 is justly written. It provides exemptions for those vehicles which serve the common good or are essential to livelihoods such as agriculture vehicles, public transportation, ambulances, transportation of goods, and government vehicles not exclusively used as passenger vehicles.

Furthermore, and equally important, the funds will go towards direct solutions. They will provide rebates on the sale of electric vehicles, funds to purchase electric transit and school buses, and money to expand the electric vehicle infrastructure.

It is imperative that we reduce greenhouse gas emissions as rapidly as possible. HB60 is simple and elegant – an essential step in the right direction. A tax on polluters, an incentive for responsible energy use and funds for moving to electric vehicle transportation.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Barbara Matheson
Columbia, MD 21044